

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the paragraph (Abstract) beginning at page 18, line 1 with the following rewritten version:

ABSTRACT

~~The present invention comprises a branching pipe joint, for distributing a refrigerant that flows within a main pipe to two flows, and an air conditioner provided therewith, and achieves both the compaction of the vicinity of the branch part and the prevention of drift therein.~~ A branching pipe joint (181) ~~comprises~~ includes a substantially Y-pipe shaped branch part (182), a first branch nozzle part (183), a second branch nozzle part (184), and a first branch pipe (186). The first branch pipe (186) ~~is a pipe member, wherein one~~ has an end ~~part~~ is connected to a tip part of the first branch nozzle part (183) during plumbing work. The first branch nozzle part (183) and the second branch nozzle part (184) are disposed so that a spacing between a portion of the tip part of the first branch nozzle part (183) nearest the second branch nozzle part (184) side and a portion of the second branch nozzle part nearest the tip part of the first branch nozzle part is less than or equal to 40 mm.